

CLAIMS

1. A network recording system including a plurality of terminals and a recording server connected via a network,

5 each terminal comprising:

a transmitting unit operable to transmit to the recording server a record instruction to record a broadcast program and a send instruction to send a recorded broadcast program, each instruction being transmitted together with a requester ID, and

10 the recording server comprising:

an ID management unit operable to manage specific requester IDs as belonging to a group;

a recording unit operable to record a broadcast program in response to a record instruction transmitted from a terminal;

15 a recorded-data management unit operable to manage a recorded broadcast program, in association with a requester ID that is transmitted with a record instruction instructed to record the broadcast program; and

20 a shared-data management unit operable to send, in response to a send instruction, a recorded broadcast program to a terminal that transmitted the send instruction, when (i) a requester ID transmitted with the send instruction is managed by the ID management unit as belonging to a group and (ii) the recorded broadcast program to be sent is associated by the recorded-data management unit with a requester ID belonging to the group.

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2. The network recording system according to Claim 1, wherein the shared-data management unit generates, on a

group-by-group basis, a shared-data list showing recorded broadcast programs that are associated with requester IDs belonging to a respective group out of all recorded broadcast programs managed by the recorded-data management unit, and transmits the shared-data list to each terminal, and

each terminal further comprises a generating unit operable to generate a send instruction based on the shared-data list.

3. The network recording system according to Claim 2, wherein each terminal further comprises:

a presentation unit operable to present the shared-data list to a user; and

a receiving unit operable to receive, from the user, a specification of a recorded broadcast programs selected from the shared-data list, and

the generating unit generates a send instruction to send the recorded broadcast program that is selected by the user.

4. The network recording system according to Claim 3, wherein the receiving unit receives designation of a group from a user,

the transmitting unit transmits, together with a requester ID, group information showing the designated group to the recording server, and

the ID management unit manages group information transmitted from a terminal, in association with a requester ID that is transmitted with the group information.

5. The network recording system according to Claim 3, wherein
the receiving unit receives, from a user, a record request
requesting to record a broadcast program, and also receives
notification setting as to whether to issue a notification about
5 the record request to other users belonging to a same group to
which the user belongs,

the generating unit generates a record instruction based on
the received record request,

10 the transmitting unit transmits, in addition to the generated
record instruction, the notification setting together with a
requester ID to the recording server, and

the shared-data management unit issues, in accordance with
notification setting transmitted with a record instruction from
a terminal, a notification about the record instruction to each
15 terminal that transmitted a requester ID belonging to a same group
to which the requester ID transmitted with the notification setting
belongs.

6. The network recording system according to Claim 3, wherein
20 the receiving unit receives, from a user, a delete request
requesting to delete a recorded broadcast program,

the generating unit generates a delete instruction based on
the received delete request,

the transmitting unit transmits the generated delete
25 instruction together with a requester ID to the recording server,
and

the shared-data management unit deletes, in response to a
delete instruction transmitted from a terminal, a recorded

broadcast program from the recording server, when the recorded broadcast program to be deleted is associated with a requester ID belonging to a same group to which a requester ID transmitted with the delete instruction belongs.

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7. The network recording system according to Claim 2, wherein the shared-data management unit deletes from the recording server a recorded broadcast program that is listed in the shared-data list, when the recorded broadcast program is sent to
10 all users or terminals identified by the requester IDs belonging to the group.

8. The network recording system according to Claim 2, wherein each time the recorded-data management unit newly associates
15 a requester ID and a recorded broadcast program, the shared-data management unit updates the shared-data list and transmits a new shared-data list to each terminal.

9. A recording server comprising:
20 a receiving unit operable to receive, from an external device, a record instruction to record a broadcast program and a send instruction to send a recorded broadcast program, each instruction being attached with a requester ID;
an ID management unit operable to manage specific requester
25 IDs as belonging to a group;
a recording unit operable to record a broadcast program in response to a record instruction received by the receiving unit;
a recorded-data management unit operable to manage a recorded

broadcast program, in association with a requester ID that is received with a record instruction instructed to record the broadcast program; and

5 a shared-data management unit operable to send, in response to a send instruction, a recorded broadcast program to an external device from which the send instruction is received, when (i) a requester ID received with the send instruction is managed by the ID management unit as belonging to a group and (ii) the recorded broadcast program to be sent is associated by the recorded-data
10 management unit with a requester ID belonging to the group.

10. A recorded data sending method for use by a recording server having: a receiving unit operable to receive a record instruction to record a broadcast program and a send instruction to send a
15 recorded broadcast program each transmitted from an external source together with a requester ID; and a recording unit operable to record a broadcast program in response to a received record instruction, the recorded data sending method comprising steps of:

20 managing specific requester IDs as belonging to a group;
managing a broadcast program that is recorded in response to a record instruction received by the receiving unit, in association with a requester ID received with the record instruction; and

25 sending, in response to a send instruction received from an external device, a recorded broadcast program to the external device from which the send instruction is received, when (i) a requester ID received with the send instruction is managed in the requester

ID managing step as belonging to a group and (ii) the recorded broadcast program to be sent is associated in the broadcast program managing step with a requester ID belonging to the group.

- 5 11. A program for use by a computer that performs a recorded data sending process, the computer acting as a recording server having: a receiving unit operable to receive a record instruction to record a broadcast program and a send instruction to send a recorded broadcast program each transmitted from an external source together
10 with a requester ID; and a recording unit operable to record a broadcast program in response to a received record instruction, the recorded data sending process comprising steps of:

managing specific requester IDs as belonging to a group;

- managing a broadcast program recorded in response to a record
15 instruction received by the receiving unit, in association with a requester ID received with the record instruction; and

- sending, in response to a send instruction received from an external device, a recorded broadcast program to the external device from which the send instruction is received, when (i) a requester
20 ID received with the send instruction is managed in the requester ID managing step as belonging to a group and (ii) the recorded broadcast program to be sent is associated in the broadcast program managing step with a requester ID belonging to the group.

- 25 12. A recording medium storing a program for use by a computer that performs a recorded data sending process, the computer acting as a recording server having: a receiving unit operable to receive a record instruction to record a broadcast program and a send

instruction to send a recorded broadcast program each transmitted from an external source together with a requester ID; and a recording unit operable to record a broadcast program in response to a received record instruction, the recorded data sending process comprising
5 steps of:

managing specific requester IDs as belonging to a group;
managing a broadcast program recorded in response to a record instruction received by the receiving unit, in association with a requester ID received with the record instruction; and

10 sending, in response to a send instruction received from an external device, a recorded broadcast program to the external device from which the send instruction is received, when (i) a requester ID received with the send instruction is managed in the requester ID managing step as belonging to a group and (ii) the recorded
15 broadcast program to be sent is associated in the broadcast program managing step with a requester ID belonging to the group.

13. An integrated circuit for use in a recording server that has:
a receiving unit operable to receive a record instruction to record
20 a broadcast program and a send instruction to send a recorded broadcast program each transmitted from an external source together with a requester ID; and a recording unit operable to record a broadcast program in response to a received record instruction, the integrated circuit comprising:

25 an ID management module operable to manage specific requester IDs as belonging to a group;

a recorded-data management module operable to manage a recorded broadcast program that is recorded in response to a record

instruction received by the receiving unit, the recorded broadcast being managed in association with a requester ID that is received with the record instruction; and

5 a shared-data management module operable to send, in response to a send instruction, a recorded broadcast program to a terminal from which the send instruction is received, when (i) a requester ID received with the send instruction is managed by the ID management module as belonging to a group and (ii) the recorded broadcast program to be sent is associated by the recorded-data management
10 module with a requester ID belonging to the group.